

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended and Claim 17 has been added. The amendments to the claims further define the invention and place the claims in better form for allowance. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and figures, specifically page 3, lines 9-11 and page 8, lines 10-12.

Election/Restrictions under 35 USC 121:

The Examiner has requested an election between Claim 1-8 and Claims 9-16. Applicants affirm their verbal election of Claim 1-8. This election is being made without traverse.

Rejection under 35 USC 112:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The Examiner had several questions regarding the language in Claim 1 "flat conductors having been previously integral with each immediately adjacent flat conductor." Applicants have amended Claim 1 and removed that language.

The Examiner has stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of "dielectric material" in Claims 3-8 which depend from Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to provide sufficient antecedent basis.

The Examiner has stated that abbreviations should not be used in the claims to define something that can be written out fully. Applicants have amended Claims 6 and 7 to remove the abbreviation.

Rejection under 35 USC 102:

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Proulx. Proulx discloses a ribbon connector for use as a speaker cable. The ribbon connector comprises two sets of flat conductors which are spaced apart from one another by a median strip of insulation. Proulx discloses that the ribbon connectors are individually encapsulated in insulation. The ribbon cable can be manufactured either using lamination or extrusion process. (column 3, lines 50-53) The present invention, as amended, requires that the flat conductors are held in place by a stretched web of dielectric material. The web holding the conductors in place has been stretched to form the flat conductors. Proulx does not disclose a stretched web of dielectric material or that a stretched web of material could be used to hold the conductors in the spaced, parallel relationship. Proulx only discloses the use of an insulation material placed between the cables or encapsulating the cable. Proulx discloses typical methods of manufacturing the cable, such as lamination or extrusion. Proulx does not disclose any method of manufacturing which

would result in a stretched web of material. Therefore, Proulx does not anticipate the present invention.

Rejection under 35 USC 103:

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Springer et al. or Ainsworth et al. taken with Proulx. Springer et al. discloses the use of blown microfiber dielectric webs to insulate the cable. The blown microfiber dielectric webs are formed through typical melt blowing techniques used to make webs. Alternatively, if a microporous material is used for additional insulation, the microfiber material may be directly blown onto the microporous material. (column 6, lines 50-53) To make the ribbon cable, a simple lamination process is used. The conductors are sandwiched between two layers of dielectric material. Rolls of cable are aligned to compress the material layers (microfiber webs) where bonding occurs. (column 5, lines 1-18)

Ainsworth et al. discloses the use of a microporous, expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) to insulate a wire. A conductor wire is embedded in the PTFE and then compressed together around the conductor to form insulation. (column 2, lines 27-33) The insulated wire is then coated with an organic solvent solution of polyurethane. The next step is to laminate a film of extrudable polyurethane to the insulated wire coating with solvent. A compression roller may be used to contact the two films. (column 2, lines 34-58)

Proulx, Springer et al., and Ainsworth et al. disclose typical processes of manufacturing a cable, such as lamination, extrusion, or compression. None of these references teach or suggest stretching a web of dielectric material. Therefore, none of these references teaches or suggest an electrical cable comprising a stretched web of dielectric material which is used to hold the conductors in a spaced, parallel relationship. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to develop the present invention based on the teachings in Proulx, Springer et al., and Ainsworth et al.

In light of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested. In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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